**Freedom of information questions - LED street lighting**

## **Part 1 The introduction of LED Street lighting and Health and other assessments**

**Please supply LightAware with the following information**

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| **1) Introduction of LED street lighting**   1. Has your council introduced any LED street lighting over the past 5 years?   If yes please explain why it was introduced. To reduce its carbon footprint   1. Were residents consulted before the LED street lighting was introduced?   If yes, please supply us with copies of all reports on the consultation and associated papers?   1. Did the council pilot the introduction of LED street lighting in any areas? If yes, please supply us with a copy of the evaluation of the pilot sites. Site trials using four different LED manufacturers in 2010. 2. Has the council had complaints about LED street lighting?   If so, please let us know the number of complaints each year, and a breakdown of the reasons for the complaints,  Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for local government is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending more than 18 hours in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.  In the time frame specified Leicester City Council has received almost 4,000 enquiries regarding lighting. However, our system does not record the information requested in a reportable format. We would need to trawl through all enquiries to establish the nature of the contact, i.e. light not working, too dim, too bright, accidents, damage etc. Allowing 5 minutes to check each record would require over 300 hours of officer time.  This is therefore a Refusal Notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act, because under the provisions of section 12.1 of the Act, the Council estimates that to comply with your request, in its current form, will exceed the appropriate limit.  The Council also judges that the following exception to disclosure is also applicable under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Regulation 12(4)(b) of the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) provides that a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that the request for information is manifestly unreasonable and Leicester City Council consider that this exception applies in this case.  While under the EIR there is no appropriate cost limit above which authorities are not required to deal with requests for information, the ICO’s guidance on regulation 12(4)(b) states ‘In assessing whether the cost, or the amount of staff time involved in responding to a request, is sufficient to render a request manifestly unreasonable the FOIA fees regulations may be a useful starting point’.  It is estimated that the time it would take to locate, retrieve and extract the information requested would considerably exceed the appropriate limit for a FOIA request of £450 or 18 hours of staff time.  Therefore, Leicester City Council considers that the exception contained in Regulation 12(4)(b) of the EIR is engaged. | Yes/no    Yes/no  Yes/no  Yes/no |
| 2) **Health and other assessments**   1. Did the council conduct research into the safety and user acceptability of LED street lighting? 2. Did the council undertake a health impact assessment prior to introducing LED street lighting? 3. Did the council undertake a disability impact assessment prior to introducing LED street lighting? 4. Did the council carry out an Equality Impact Assessment, for example to ensure that older people are not disadvantaged by such lighting? 5. How did the council ensure that the introduction of LED street lighting met its obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to ensure that it did not cause discrimination? This was considered as part of an Equality Impact Assessment in 2011. 6. Did the council carry out an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment)? 7. Did the council assess the impact on protected species (e.g. bats) and what steps (if any) were taken to ensure that the chosen LED specification satisfied the statutory duties relating to biodiversity. If yes please supply LightAware copies of relevant documentation. 8. How does the council take into account the sensitivities of residents with sensitivities to LED street lighting, e.g. people suffering from migraines, lupus and autism? Please describe the process. To date LCC has not received any complaints from people suffering from migraines, lupus or autism.   If the answer is yes to any of the questions a) to g), please supply a copy of the relevant council papers and assessments. | Yes/no  Yes/no  Yes/no  Yes/no  Yes/no  Yes/no  Yes/no |

## **Part 2 Investment in LED street lighting**

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| 1. How much has the council invested in LED street lighting in each of the past five financial years?   LCC began its 4-year LED conversion project in 2013 | 2014/15 £3.696m  2015/16 £4.006m  2016/17 £0.434m  2017/18 £0  (for 2017/18 £0  provisional figures if appropriate) |
| 1. How was the LED street lighting funded in 2017/18? 2. Green investment bank? 3. Public works loan board? 4. Prudential borrowing? 5. Revenue to capital? 6. Other (please specify? | Please indicate funding from each source  £11.57m |
| 1. How many streetlights in the current council area are currently (as of 30 June 2019)?  * Low Pressure Sodium discharge lamps * The high-pressure sodium lamps * Metal Halide * LED * Other please specify | Number of each  10  216  877  34,216  2175 |
| 1. Of the LED streetlights how many are:  * Phosphor-Converted Amber (PCA) LED Street Lamps? * Narrow-Band Amber (NBA) LED Street Lamps? | Number of each  33,536 (All LED units)  0 |
| 1. Colour temperature of LED street lighting. Of the currently installed street lighting please let us know the number in the following correlated colour temperature categories:  * Under 3000 degrees kelvin * 3000 – 3999 degrees kelvin * 4000 degrees kelvin and higher | Number of each  0  0  33,536 (All LED units) |
| 1. Glare and flicker - What steps (if any) the authority has taken to mitigate the known and serious problems (relating to health and road and public safety) of glare and flicker that are associated with LED street lighting.  * How many of the installed LED streetlights are flicker free? The LED units do not use Pulse Wave Modulation * How does the council monitor that they remain flicker free? The LED units do not suffer from flicker * How many of the installed LED streetlights have unshielded LED chips? | Number of each  33,536 (All LED units)  Not applicable.  0 |

## **Part 3 Planned investment in LED street lighting**

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| 1. How much has/ does the council plan to invest in LED street lighting in each of the following financial years?  * 2018/19 * 2019/20 * 2020/21 | (£)  £0  £0  £0 |
| 1. How does the council plan to fund this investment?  * Green investment bank? * Public works loan board? * Prudential borrowing? * Revenue to capital? * Other (please specify? | £ from each source Not applicable |
| 1. Of the current streetlights in your council area (see question 5), how many do you plan to replace over the next 3 years?  * Low Pressure Sodium discharge lamps * The high-pressure sodium lamps * Metal Halide * LED * Other please specify | Number of lamps  0  0  0  0  0 |
| 1. What do you plan to replace them with? If the replacements are LED let us know the number in the following colour temperature categories:  * Under 3000 degrees kelvin * 3000 – 3999 degrees kelvin * 4000 degrees kelvin and higher | Number of lamps  Not applicable |
| 1. 1In undertaking this investment has the council taken into account recent reports on the health and safety of LED lighting produced by:  * The EU SCHHER report on potential risks to human health of Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs)? see link <https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/scientific_committees/scheer/docs/scheer_o_011.pdf> * The latest EU guidance on the procurement of LED street lighting? see link <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/eur-scientific-and-technical-research-reports/revision-eu-green-public-procurement-criteria-road-lighting-and-traffic-signals> * The French public health institute (ANSES) report on effects on human health and the environment (fauna and flora) of systems using light-emitting diodes (LEDs)? see link <https://www.anses.fr/en/system/files/AP2014SA0253EN.pdf> | yes/no  yes/no  yes/no |